

*Copy 267 (Rochester)*

CITY OF ROCHESTER



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REPORT  
OF  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

---

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT  
AND  
PORT SANITARY DISTRICT

---

1928

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ROCHESTER :  
BALLARD & SON, Printers, 336 High Street



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# CITY OF ROCHESTER



## REPORT AS TO URBAN DISTRICT

SAYE HOUSE,  
2 CASTLE HILL,  
ROCHESTER,  
May 22nd, 1929

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you the following Report as to the Sanitary Condition of your District for the year 1928.

This is again an ordinary Report, such as was prepared for 1927, and is not so full as the Survey Reports which are prepared every five years.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. PRITCHETT,  
Medical Officer of Health

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

|                                                 |             |     |     |                |          |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----|-----|----------------|----------|
| AREA IN ACRES, LAND AND INLAND WATER            | ...         | ... | ... | ...            | 2,936    |
|                                                 |             |     |     | ESTIMATED 1928 |          |
| POPULATION                                      | CENSUS 1921 |     | {   | BIRTH RATE     | 31,760   |
| ...                                             | 31933       | ... | for | DEATH RATE     | 31,280   |
| NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1921)               | ...         | ... |     | ...            | 7,076    |
| NUMBER OF FAMILIES OR SEPARATE OCCUPIERS (1921) | ...         | ... |     | ...            | 7,244    |
| RATEABLE VALUE                                  | ...         | ... | ... | ...            | £187,037 |
| SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE                 | ...         | ... | ... | ...            | £731     |

### SOCIAL CONDITION ;

The prosperity of Rochester, as heretofore, depends mostly on its River Trade, on the Cement Industry, on Agriculture, in connection with which there is a Cattle Market, on Engineering Works, and on the proximity of the Royal Dockyard at Chatham.

There is no evidence that occupation in any of these directions is specially injurious to health.

The population is both Residential and Working-Class, the latter greatly predominating.

# VITAL STATISTICS

|                                                               |                | TOTAL | M.  | F.  |                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------|-----|-----|--------------------------|
| BIRTHS                                                        | { LEGITIMATE   | 467   | 231 | 236 | } BIRTH RATE (R.G.) 15.2 |
|                                                               | { ILLEGITIMATE | 18    | 10  | 8   |                          |
| DEATHS                                                        | ...            | 365   | 181 | 184 | DEATH RATE (R.G.) 11.1   |
| NUMBER OF WOMEN DYING IN, OR IN CONSEQUENCE OF, { FROM SEPSIS |                |       |     |     |                          |
|                                                               | CHILDBIRTH     | ...   | ... | ... | { OTHER CAUSES           |

## DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE PER 1000 BIRTHS:—

|                                        |                     |             |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| LEGITIMATE, 38.5                       | ILLEGITIMATE, 166.6 | TOTAL, 43.2 |
| DEATHS FROM MEASLES (ALL AGES)         | ...                 | 0           |
| " " WHOOPING COUGH (ALL AGES)          | ...                 | 0           |
| " " DIARRHOEA (UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE) | ...                 | 4           |

The Registrar-General's Table of Causes of Death appears at the end of the Report on Page 30

The following Table shews a comparison between the "Rates" in this District and those in other parts of England and Wales for the year 1928.

|                                                           | Birth Rate  | Death Rate  | Infant Mortality<br>per 1000 Births |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| England and Wales                                         | 16.7        | 11.7        | 65                                  |
| 107 County Boroughs and Great Towns<br>(including London) | 16.9        | 11.6        | 70                                  |
| 156 Smaller Towns                                         | 16.6        | 10.6        | 60                                  |
| London                                                    | 15.9        | 11.6        | 67                                  |
| <b>Rochester</b>                                          | <b>15.2</b> | <b>11.6</b> | <b>43.2</b>                         |

TABLE I.

# Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1928 and Previous Years

Name of District—ROCHESTER

| YEAR. | Popula-<br>tion<br>estimated<br>to middle<br>of each<br>year. | Births.                     |        |      | Total Deaths<br>Registered in<br>the District. |      | Transferable Deaths                                      |                                                             | Nett Deaths belonging to the District. |                                    |              |      |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|------|------------------------------------------------|------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|------|
|       |                                                               | Un-<br>corrected<br>Number. | Nett.  |      | Number                                         | Rate | of Non-<br>Residents<br>Registered<br>in the<br>District | of<br>Residents<br>not<br>Registered<br>in the<br>District. | Under 1 year of age                    |                                    | At all Ages. |      |
|       |                                                               |                             | Number | Rate |                                                |      |                                                          |                                                             | Number                                 | Rate per<br>1,000 nett.<br>Births. | Number       | Rate |
|       |                                                               |                             |        |      |                                                |      |                                                          |                                                             |                                        |                                    |              |      |
| 1     | 2                                                             | 3                           | 4      | 5    | 6                                              | 7    | 8                                                        | 9                                                           | 10                                     | 11                                 | 12           | 13   |
| 1923  | 32010                                                         | 596                         | 611    | 19   | 447                                            | 13.9 | 157                                                      | 39                                                          | 28                                     | 45.8                               | 329          | 10.2 |
| 1924  | { 32490*<br>32090†                                            | 529                         | 546    | 16.8 | 485                                            | 15.1 | 155                                                      | 39                                                          | 33                                     | 60.4                               | 369          | 11.4 |
| 1925  | { 32080*<br>31980†                                            | 538                         | 539    | 16.8 | 507                                            | 15.8 | 193                                                      | 47                                                          | 30                                     | 55.6                               | 361          | 11.2 |
| 1926  | { 31350*<br>31270†                                            | 571                         | 578    | 18.4 | 539                                            | 17.2 | 230                                                      | 53                                                          | 30                                     | 51.9                               | 362          | 11.5 |
| 1927  | { 30860*<br>30760†                                            | 507                         | 514    | 16.6 | 529                                            | 17.1 | 217                                                      | 57                                                          | 22                                     | 42.8                               | 369          | 11.9 |
| 1928  | { 31760*<br>31280†                                            | 458                         | 485    | 15.2 | 508                                            | 16.2 | 208                                                      | 65                                                          | 21                                     | 43.2                               | 365          | 11.6 |

\* For Birth Rate

† For Death Rate

## COMMENTS ON TABLE 1. POPULATION

The population which, according to the figures of the Registrar General, has undergone a steady decline since 1924 shews in the year under consideration a considerable increase over the figures for 1927, viz. 900 on the figures for the Birth Rate and 520 on those for the Death Rate. This is according to all the evidence at our disposal, probably more in accord with the facts, but the question of the true population of the District must remain obscure until the next Census. At present it appears to be largely a matter of guessing.

### THE BIRTH RATE

The Birth Rate per 1000 of the population is 15.2. This is the lowest on record and is 1.4 lower than in 1927. It is 1.5 lower than the figures for England and Wales for 1928 and 1.4 lower than the figures for the 156 Smaller Towns for the same year.

### THE DEATH RATE

The Death Rate from all causes and at all ages is 11.6. It was 11.9 in 1927. It is .1 lower than the figures for England and Wales for 1928 but 1 higher than that for the 156 Smaller Towns. In the absence of any devastating epidemic, the Death Rate in this Country will probably remain where it is, within small variations, and the rise or fall of a point or two will carry no significance.

### THE INFANT DEATH RATE

The Infant Death Rate was 43.2. In 1927 it was 42.8, the lowest on record. The figure this year is 16.8 lower than the average rate for the 156 Smaller Towns and 22.8 lower than that for the whole Country. This is again, as it is year after year, a most satisfactory return, and it is unnecessary to repeat the remarks made in this connection in the Report for 1927.

### CAUSES OF SICKNESS OR INVALIDITY

There have been no special causes of sickness or invalidity during the year except that there has been rather more Diphtheria than usual.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA HOSPITALS.

### A. 1. FEVER

St. William's Isolation Hospital, situated in the District and serving Rochester, Chatham and Gillingham provides about 100 beds. In normal terms this is sufficient, but during the year a good deal of pressure has been put on the Diphtheria accommodation by reason of the unusual prevalence of this disease in the three Districts. At the time of writing, this pressure has ceased and less than half the Diphtheria beds are now occupied. The Hospital also admits Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, Scarlet Fever and Typhoid Fever, for which diseases there is always ample room.

### 2. SMALL POX

There is a Hospital of 24 beds, capable of extension, in the District, for the joint use of Rochester and Chatham. Gillingham makes its own provision for Small Pox.

### B. 1. TUBERCULOSIS

The treatment of Tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council and suitable cases from this District are admitted to their Sanatoria as occasion requires. There is no Sanatorium for Tuberculosis situated in the District. The Medway Board of Guardians, which administers the Poor Law for that part of this District south of the River, makes provision at their Infirmary at Chatham for 26 Tuberculosis patients.

### 2. MATERNITY

There is a Naval Maternity Home at Gillingham, to which patients are admitted from this District on payment, but little use is made of this facility. There are also eight Maternity Beds at the Medway Infirmary, and there is a small registered Maternity Home at Strood.

### 3. CHILDREN

There is a Children's Ward at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and beds for 16 children at the Medway Poor Law Infirmary.

### 4. ORTHOPAEDIC

There is an Orthopaedic Department at St. Bartholomew's Hospital which includes the treatment of Surgical Cases, an Orthopaedic Clinic, and provision for Orthopaedic treatment.

### 5. OTHER

#### ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, ROCHESTER

This General Hospital, situated in the District, serves a population of over 10,000. Its beds numbering 126, are allocated as follows:—

|             |     |    |            |     |    |
|-------------|-----|----|------------|-----|----|
| Medical     | ... | 37 | Surgical   | ... | 77 |
| Orthopaedic | ... | 4  | Ophthalmic | ... | 8  |

It has the following Special Departments:—

|                    |                      |            |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Massage            | Orthopaedic          | Electrical |
| Remedial Exercises | Pathological         | "X" Rays   |
| Ophthalmic         | Ear, Nose and Throat |            |

The accommodation is insufficient for the large Area served and at the present time an appeal is being made for £80,000 to enable the Hospital to do its work in a complete and efficient manner. Up to now £42,000 has been raised.

#### POOR LAW INFIRMARY AT CHATHAM

This has 466 beds, allocated as follows:—

General 416, Tuberculosis 26, Children 16, Maternity 8

### PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE AND HOMELESS CHILDREN

There is no Institutional Provision for any of these except such as is provided by the Poor Law Authorities.

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES

a. A Motor Ambulance is kept at St. William's Hospital for the removal of cases of Infectious Disease from Chatham and Rochester. Gillingham remove their cases to the Hospital.

b. A Motor Ambulance for non-Infectious and Accident Cases is maintained by the St. John's Ambulance Association and is available at all times. A further Motor Ambulance is kept by the Corporation for street accidents.

### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

|                                              | Situation                                           | Accommodation | By whom Provided                 |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| SCHOOL CLINIC                                | Strood House,<br>The Common,<br>Rochester           | Sufficient    | Rochester Education<br>Committee |
| TUBERCULOSIS<br>DISPENSARY                   | 13 New Road,<br>Rochester                           | Sufficient    | Kent County Council              |
| TREATMENT CENTRE<br>FOR VENEREAL<br>DISEASES | 36 New Road,<br>Rochester                           | Sufficient    | Kent County Council              |
| CENTRE FOR DISTRI-<br>BUTION OF MILK         | The New Corn<br>Exchange, North-<br>gate, Rochester | Sufficient    | Rochester Corpora-<br>tion       |

## **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS**

The Staff Consists of:—

1. The Medical Officer of Health, who is also Port Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, and Medical Superintendent of St. William's Hospital for Infectious Diseases, which is a joint Hospital for Rochester and Chatham, and also admits, under agreement, patients from Gillingham. This is a whole time Officer and a contribution is paid towards his salary.

2. A deputy Port Medical Officer of Health, who is part time, and to whose salary a contribution is paid.

3. Chief Sanitary Inspector. This officer holds the Meat Certificate, and a contribution is paid. He is also Inspector under the Food and Drugs Acts. He is whole time.

4 & 5 Two Sanitary Inspectors. These Officers both hold the Meat Certificate. A contribution is paid for each and they are whole time.

6. Two Health Visitors. Fully qualified and with Midwives' Certificates. Contributions paid. Whole time.

7. One Clerk. No contribution paid. Whole time.

No Special Nurses are employed by the Council, nor is there any Voluntary Organisation in direct touch with the Health Department.

## **PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME**

a. For non-Infectious and General Cases the Trustees of Watts' Charity have a staff of six Nurses, who undertake work throughout the District. Two of them are constantly employed in District Nursing and are also Registered Midwives under the supervision of the County Council. The remaining four are what is called Occasional Nurses and their duties lie in looking after chronic or bed-ridden cases of illness.

There is also a Jubilee Nurse for the North Side of the River.

b. There is no special provision for the nursing of Infectious Cases.

## **MIDWIVES**

These are entirely controlled by the County Council.

## **MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES**

Up to July 1st, 1928, there was one Maternity Home in the District which was supervised by the County Council. Since July 1st the Corporation has become the Local Supervising Authority both of Maternity and Nursing Homes in the District. Of these there are one of each. Both of them have been duly inspected and registered. There were no applications other than these two and one exemption from registration was granted in the case of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, a General Hospital serving a very large area.

## **MATERNAL MORTALITY**

No special arrangements have been made for the investigation of maternal deaths and cases of puerperal fever other than that all the medical men practising in the District have been advised that in such cases any information they can give will be sought by the Medical Officer of Health who will prepare a Report on each case.

## **ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK**

### **CHEMICAL**

So far as regards Food and Drugs, this is carried out by the Public Analyst for the City, and the results for the year appear on p. 19.

### **BACTERIOLOGICAL**

The work under this heading is carried out at the County Laboratory at Maidstone. In addition a Quarterly Chemical and Bacteriological Analysis of the Strood Water is made by Dr. Spitta, St. George's Hospital, London.

The various results appear in other parts of the Report.

## LEGISLATION IN FORCE

### LOCAL ACTS, LOCAL ORDERS, ADOPTIVE ACTS AND BYE-LAWS

The following are in force:—

|                                            |     |                 |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------|
| Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1880 | ... | Adopted in 1891 |
| Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890   | ... | " 1890          |
| Private Streets Works Act, 1892            | ... | " 1893          |
| Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907   | ... | " 1910          |
| Public Health Act, 1925, (Parts II. to V.) | ... | " 1926          |
| Superannuation Act, 1922                   | ... | " 1926          |

Bye-Laws:—

|                                     |     |                         |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------|
| Slaughter Houses                    | ... | Made in September, 1921 |
| Offensive Trades (Fish Frying)      | ... | " December, 1911        |
| Common Lodging Houses (P.H.A. 1875) |     |                         |

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER

As explained in previous Reports, the Water Supply of Rochester is in two portions, one for each side of the River. On the North the supply is from a shallow well in the chalk and is the property of the Corporation. This water is satisfactory both in quantity and quality, and is subjected to a monthly Bacteriological Analysis by the County Council's Bacteriologist, and to a quarterly Chemical and Bacteriological Analysis by Dr. Spitta, St. George's Hospital, London. The water is treated by "Chloros" and subsequent filtration through charcoal and sand. The result is a water nearly sterile and in which the *Bacillus Coli* is never found.

The water before treatment is liable to a varying degree of invasion of micro-organisms but the *B. Coli* is not found in large numbers, while the Chemical Analyses rarely afford evidence of any considerable contamination. It may, in short, be said that the crude water is usually potable without the treatment by "Chloros," while the latter provides a precautionary measure capable of dealing with a contamination many times greater than has ever arisen, or, so far as one can see, is likely to arise.

The following remarks apply to the Water Supply on the South Side of the River, which is from the wells of the Chatham and District Water Company.

The supply is constant and sufficient.

Frequent Bacteriological and Chemical Analyses are made and the subjoined analyses are of water taken from a tap in Rochester during 1928:

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL

|                              |                                  |             |    |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|----|
| Organisms per c.c. at 20° C. | ...                              | ...         | 37 |
| " " R.L.                     | ...                              | ...         | 1  |
| " " 37.5° C.                 | ...                              | Less than 1 |    |
| <i>Coli</i> Organisms        | Absent from 40 c.c. of the water |             |    |

This is satisfactory and suitable for drinking.

#### CHEMICAL

Parts per 100,000

|                      |     |       |
|----------------------|-----|-------|
| Suspended Solids     | ... | Nil   |
| Dissolved Solids     | ... | 42.4  |
| Chlorides            | ... | 2.1   |
| Free Ammonia         | ... | .045  |
| Albuminoid Ammonia   | ... | .009  |
| Nitrates             | ... | .83   |
| Nitrites             | ... | Nil   |
| Oxygen consumed from |     |       |
| Permanganate         | ... | .0032 |
| Temporary Hardness   | ... | 21.49 |
| Permanent Hardness   | ... | 3.77  |

## RAINFALL

The rainfall registered at Strood Waterworks was 27.29 inches, as compared with 31.84 in 1927.

Both years shew figures above the average.

That there is local variation in the amount of rain is evidenced by the figures taken at Luton Waterworks, Chatham, and at Woolman's Wood, the latter being 470 feet above sea level. The respective amounts were 28.48 inches and 32.05 inches.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

For many years Rochester and Chatham have borne an unenviable notoriety for their continuance of an obsolete method of sewage disposal. They have been honeycombed with holes dug near the houses, into which the drainage was received. When full, these pits are emptied, and their contents carted through the street to be deposited on ground outside.

This process entails nuisance from start to finish, and no one will regret its disappearance.

The completion of a system of Main Drainage during 1928 is an event of no small importance in the Sanitary History of the City. For various reasons a Sewerage Scheme which everybody realised must come, has been long deferred.

The rival claims of single or joint schemes, the relative advantages of various sites for disposal work, were raised, and confused the issue. Finally, in 1914 Rochester and Chatham were constituted as a United District for Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

A scheme was approved by the Local Government Board in 1915.

Action was postponed during the War, and owing to other considerations it was not possible to proceed for some years after the end of the War.

In 1923, an independent opinion on the merits of the scheme was secured, and in January, 1925, a start was made.

On December 4th, 1928, Alderman F. F. Smith, then Chairman of the Joint Sewerage Board, officially opened the works at Motley Hill.

The scheme of Sewerage consists of a High and Low Level system of Sewers. About two thirds of the houses will be connected with the High Level Sewers, and the remainder to the Low Level.

By means of Pumping Stations the contents of the latter will be pumped into the Main Outfall Sewer.

Each Borough was responsible for the provision of its internal Sewers, of which there are about 50 miles in Chatham, and  $31\frac{1}{2}$  in Rochester.

The Joint Branch Outfall Sewer commences in St. Margaret Street, and ends at Motley Hill. Its length is nearly  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles, the greater part being in a tunnel.

The Outfall Works are surrounded on three sides by a sea wall.

The site is 75 acres in extent, and well removed from the nearest population.

Provision is made for future filter beds, and humus tanks, or for an activated sludge scheme, should either be necessary, but at present owing to the enormous dilution of the effluent given by the River Medway, only Tank Settlement is needed.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS

No action has been taken to check the pollution of the River Medway, which is the only stream in the district.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

With the exception of about 90 privies, all the houses in the District are provided with Water Closets. During the past year 2 privies were converted into W.C.'s. This makes a total of 230 conversions brought about by the Health Department during the past 21 years.

The completion of the Main Drainage Scheme will facilitate the conversion of the remainder.

## SCAVENGING

The removal of household refuse is carried out by the Surveyor's Department. The Tip at Frindsbury Brickfields is no longer in use. Refuse is now carted to a place near the Cuxton Road, where it is deposited in layers about 6 feet deep, which are covered with soil as they are made. The domestic methods of storing refuse have been the subject of comment for many years. They shew no improvement, and are as insanitary and unsightly as it is possible for them to be. Towards the end of 1928, the Council considered the question of requiring the provision of Sanitary Dustbins to dwellings, and decided that such provision should be made. It is to be hoped that during the ensuing year some progress will be made with this much needed reform.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

### SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

I beg to submit my 21st Annual Report on the work done in connection with the Sanitary Inspection of the City.

6,039 Inspections and Visits were made in the execution of the various duties of the Department during the past year. Action was taken to secure repairs, alterations and improvements at 672 premises. Further particulars follow under their respective headings.

### HOUSING ACT INSPECTIONS

The number of houses formally inspected under the Housing Act and reported on to the Health Committee was 63. They were situated as follows:—

|                     |     |   |                 |     |    |
|---------------------|-----|---|-----------------|-----|----|
| Albion Place        | ... | 8 | Montfort Road   | ... | 1  |
| Burritt Street      | ... | 1 | North Street    | ... | 5  |
| Bridgewood Cottages | 2   |   | Northgate       | ... | 1  |
| Broom Hill          | ... | 2 | Prentice Street | ... | 1  |
| Church Path         | ... | 9 | Princes Street  | ... | 2  |
| Clive Road          | ... | 1 | Pump Yard       | ... | 3  |
| Doggett's Square    | ... | 3 | Sidney Road     | ... | 1  |
| Friary Place        | ... | 1 | Strood Square   | ... | 13 |
| Hoopers Place       | ... | 1 | Windmill Street | ... | 2  |
| King Street         | ... | 2 | Wykeham Street  | ... | 4  |

63

Necessary notices requiring improvements were served, excepting with regard to Nos. 1 to 10 Strood Square and Nos. 4 and 5 Doggett's Square which were formally closed. Closing Orders also became operative in connection with Nos. 5 and 7 Barton's Alley, in consequence of the owners giving counter notice of intention to close after the service of notice under Section 3, Housing Act, 1925. Bridgewood Cottages were voluntarily closed and demolished by the owners after their attention was drawn to their dilapidated condition. No. 7 Northgate was voluntarily closed by the Council after damage by fire.

The difficulty in finding alternative dwelling places for tenants resident in condemned cottages has delayed enforcement of vacation of the cottages in Strood Square, but it is understood that consideration will be given to the tenants affected when the new flats being erected by the Council are completed.

Demolition Orders were made in relation to Nos. 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 15, Barton's Alley and Nos. 4 and 5, Doggett's Square and the former block of cottages was pulled down.

It may be of interest to mention that in the past 20 years about 190 insanitary cottages in the City have been demolished. Many of these consisted of 2 or 3 rooms each, and since their demolition no dwellings of such limited capacity have been built although there is always a demand for such accommodation by aged couples, widows and small families in poor circumstances.

### SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

609 premises other than those referred to under Housing Act Inspections were dealt with during the year for defects and insanitary conditions, and in the same period a total of 2,207 improvements of various kinds were effected at properties in the City. Only a very small percentage of these properties was brought to the notice of the Health Committee by formal report, this indicating that as in past years informal communications sent to owners bring considerable measure of success. In this work as in other branches of our duties every possible assistance is given to those affected by Health Department demands, and in most cases this is recognised by those concerned taking action before statutory demands become necessary. The amount of Drainage work carried out was again comparatively small, but at the end of the year there was every indication that there would soon be a great change in that respect. In a considerable number of cases the abolition of cesspools will not mean merely diversion of the drains to the sewers but more or less complete re-construction of drainage and in many instances the sanitary fittings associated with it. In cases where the existing drains can be connected to the sewers without alteration the supervision of the work is being carried out by the Drainage Department, in the direction of which I am acting jointly with the City Surveyor, but where complete re-construction of house drainage is being undertaken, supervision of the work which is in progress is being carried out by the Health Department Staff.

Details of improvements effected follow :—

|                                          |     |     |     |
|------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Houses re-drained                        | ... | ... | 21  |
| Defective drains repaired                | ... | ... | 19  |
| Drains unstopped and cleansed            | ... | ... | 209 |
| New ventilated soilpipes fixed           | ... | ... | 3   |
| New ventshafts fixed                     | ... | ... | 17  |
| Privies abolished and replaced by W.C.'s | ... | ... | 2   |
| New W.C. apartments built                | ... | ... | 10  |
| W.C.'s provided with new pans and traps  | ... | ... | 48  |
| W.C.'s provided with flushing apparatus  | ... | ... | 20  |
| W.C. fittings repaired and cleansed      | ... | ... | 42  |
| New Urinal built                         | ... | ... | 1   |
| New cesspools dug                        | ... | ... | 2   |
| Cesspools enlarged                       | ... | ... | 1   |
| Cesspools repaired                       | ... | ... | 12  |
| Old Cesspools filled in                  | ... | ... | 10  |
| New sinks fixed                          | ... | ... | 34  |
| Trapped wastepipes fixed                 | ... | ... | 74  |
| New lavatory basins fixed                | ... | ... | 6   |
| Water Tests applied                      | ... | 119 |     |
| Smoke Tests applied                      | ... | 70  |     |

### MISCELLANEOUS

|                                             |     |     |    |
|---------------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| No. of houses closed                        | ... | ... | 17 |
| No. of houses demolished                    | ... | ... | 6  |
| Water supply laid on in houses              | ... | ... | 13 |
| Roofs repaired                              | ... | ... | 93 |
| Guttering or downpipes provided or repaired | ... | ... | 55 |
| Rain Water pipes disconnected from drain    | ... | ... | 2  |

|                                              |     |     |       |
|----------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Damp walls remedied                          | ... | ... | 85    |
| Yards re-paved                               | ... | ... | 20    |
| Yard paving repaired                         | ... | ... | 23    |
| New wash-houses built                        | ... | ... | 4     |
| Milk Store reconstructed                     | ... | ... | 1     |
| Additional light to rooms provided           | ... | ... | 3     |
| Defective floors repaired                    | ... | ... | 109   |
| Defective windows repaired                   | ... | ... | 225   |
| Defective walls and ceiling plaster repaired | ... | ... | 208   |
| Dirty walls cleansed                         | ... | ... | 211   |
| Dirty ceilings cleansed                      | ... | ... | 173   |
| Dirty houses cleansed (tenants' neglect)     | ... | ... | 2     |
| Flooded earth under floors limed             | ... | ... | 133   |
| Overcrowding abated                          | ... | ... | 2     |
| Nuisances from manure and refuse abated      | ... | ... | 16    |
| Nuisances from animals abated                | ... | ... | 3     |
| Miscellaneous defects remedied               | ... | ... | 269   |
|                                              |     |     | <hr/> |
|                                              |     |     | 2207  |

### CESSPOOL AND PRIVY EMPTYING

10,551 loads of sewage pumped from cesspools represents a continued increase in work as the number of loads for the previous year was 9,885. In addition to this, the night-soil gangs removed 941 loads of sludge from cesspools and 206 loads of privy contents. As main drainage connections were not commenced until November, relief from cesspool emptying came from this source, nor is it to be expected that there will be any such reduction of emptying for at least another year. Although one of the most troublesome cesspools have already been put out of action by connecting the house drains to the sewers, additional emptying of cesspools will be necessary, because wherever a house is connected up to the sewer the cesspool is pumped out. It is thus obvious that emptying will be done at houses where otherwise it would not have been undertaken.

### FOOD INSPECTION

Much time and close supervision were given to the City's food supply during the year. A total of 1,562 visits and inspections were made, and of these 1,127 were to slaughter houses, 203 to cowsheds and dairies, 57 to bakehouses, 20 to fried fish shops, and 155 to other places where food is sold, stored, or prepared for sale.

The efforts to ensure that the meat sold in the City was free from disease or other harmful conditions made heavy demands on time in and out of ordinary office hours, but the necessity for vigilance in this respect is made clear by statement of the fact that it was found necessary to condemn the entire carcasses and internal organs of 3 animals, parts of 3 other carcasses, and no less than 309 heads and tongues or internal organs of other animals. There was a noticeable increase in the number of pigs' heads in which localised tuberculosis was found, 117 having to be destroyed because of this affection.

Following the condemnation of a tuberculous young calf, notification of its condition was at once sent to the farmer from whose premises (outside the City area) the animal had come, the suggestion being made that he should have the mother of the animal examined by his Veterinary Surgeon. The sequence was that the latter animal was found to be suffering from acute tuberculosis and was destroyed.

One butcher was fined £2 for being in possession of a diseased pig's head, and £1 for failing to report disease in the animal. His slaughterman was fined £2 for not using the humane killer.

In another instance 2 joints of pork and a pig's head were seized in a shop because of tuberculous affection; the pig had been slaughtered in another area, and after consideration of all the circumstances a severe reprimand was given to the butcher concerned.

An unusual prosecution was that of a man for retailing unsound eggs. His practice was to go from door to door offering for sale eggs which he alleged were natural, but which in reality were imported eggs, many being quite unsound. He was fined £1 13 0.

Visits to premises concerned in the dairy trade revealed that as a well as improvement continues, although in recent years milk producers and retailers have already made big advances on their previous efforts to safeguard this widely used article of food. At two farms, the cowsheds were completely re-modelled on the latest hygienic principles of stalling cows, and one retailer completed the construction of his dairy. Several of the cowsheds and dairies in the City have been used by the Wye College authorities for demonstrating to students methods of clean milk production, handling and storage. One milk retailer who comes from a rural area was prosecuted and fined £5 and £1 1s. costs for failing to label separate milk, and £2 and £1 1s. costs for having no name and address on milk receptacles. The defendant had been previously prosecuted for various offences in connection with milk.

### RECORD OF FOOD CONDEMNED

|                                  |                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 carcases, etc., of cows        | (2 Tuberculosis, 1 Septicæmia, 1 John's Disease)                                            |
| 1 carcase, etc., of a heifer     | (Tuberculosis)                                                                              |
| 3 cow forequarters               | do.                                                                                         |
| 2 carcases, etc., of calves      | do.                                                                                         |
| 26 carcases, etc., of pigs       | (20 Tuberculosis, 2 Dropsical, 1 Septicæmia, 1 Jaundice, 1 Swine Erysipelas, 1 Acute Fever) |
| 6 carcases, etc., of sheep       | (5 Emaciation and Dropsy, 1 Putrefaction)                                                   |
| 1 carcase, etc., of a lamb       | (Emaciation and Dropsy)                                                                     |
| 1 forequarter of mutton          | (Bone fracture and bruises)                                                                 |
| 28 ox heads and tongues          | (25 Tuberculosis, 3 Actinomycosis)                                                          |
| 19 ox livers                     | (4 Parasites, 4 Tuberculosis, 4 Cavernous Angioma, 4 Abscesses, 2 Cirrhosis, 1 Tumour)      |
| 1 set ox intestines              | (Oesophagostoma Columbianum)                                                                |
| 73lbs. beef                      | (Bruised)                                                                                   |
| 30lbs. imported beef             | (Bone Taint)                                                                                |
| 119 pigs' heads and tongues      | (117 Tuberculosis, 2 Abscesses)                                                             |
| 11 pigs' plucks                  | (Tuberculosis)                                                                              |
| 29 pigs' livers                  | (27 Cirrhosis, 1 Tuberculosis, 1 Parasites)                                                 |
| 2 pigs' kidneys                  | (Cystic)                                                                                    |
| 100 sheep's livers               | (76 Parasites, 20 Necrosis, 3 Cysts, 1 Cirrhosis)                                           |
| 1041 tins of meat and fish paste | 57 bottles of sauce and pickles                                                             |
| 332 tins or packets of soup      | 42lbs. of sugar and sweets                                                                  |
| 54 tins of fish                  | 84lbs. of caraway seeds                                                                     |
| 46 tins of meat                  | 6lbs. of crystallised peel                                                                  |
| 30 tins of fruit                 | 6 bottles of vinegar                                                                        |
| 30 tins of milk and cream        | 30lbs. dried fruits                                                                         |
| 59 tins of treacle               | 30lbs. bisuits                                                                              |
| 60 jars of jam                   | 6-6lb. tins of corned beef                                                                  |

### DISINFECTION

269 rooms were disinfected after the occurrence of cases of Infectious Diseases  
43 rooms were fumigated with the object of destroying vermin.

### SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND OFFICE WORK

*Inspections :—*

|                                         |     |      |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|------|
| Primary inspection of premises          | ... | 609  |
| House to house inspections              | ... | 63   |
| Caravans inspected                      | ... | 73   |
| Re-inspections after service of notices | ... | 1023 |

|                                      |     |     |            |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|------------|
| Visits to work in progress           | ... | ... | 1260       |
| „ factories and workshops            | ... | ... | 123        |
| „ bakehouses                         | ... | ... | 57         |
| „ slaughter houses                   | ... | ... | 1127       |
| „ other premises for food inspection | ... | ... | 155        |
| „ cowsheds and dairies               | ... | ... | 203        |
| „ offensive trades                   | ... | ... | 20         |
| „ stables and mews                   | ... | ... | 299        |
| Visits for food sampling             | ... | ... | 72         |
| „ re infectious disease              | ... | ... | 247        |
| Miscellaneous visits                 | ... | ... | 708        |
|                                      |     |     | <hr/> 6039 |

*Office Work :—*

|                                               |     |     |      |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| Letters received and dealt with               | ... | ... | 1663 |
| Complaints received and dealt with            | ... | ... | 324  |
| Letters written                               | ... | ... | 356  |
| Intimation notices served                     | ... | ... | 672  |
| Statutory notices served                      | ... | ... | 14   |
| Notices sent out re cesspools and privies     | ... | ... | 292  |
| Notices sent to schools re infectious disease | ... | ... | 236  |

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**T. TOPPING.**

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

### **SMOKE ABATEMENT**

It has not been necessary to take any action in regard to this matter.

### **PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS**

#### **BAKEHOUSES**

These are regularly and systematically inspected at least twice yearly. There are 17 on the register.

#### **FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS**

Homework. Wearing Apparel—Lists received 13. Outworkers 13.

Workshops on Register at end of year:—

Workshops, 84. Domestic Workshops, 31. Bakehouses, 17.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector, 1. Remedied, 1.

# 1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors

| Premises<br>(1)                              | Number of          |                        |                             |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                              | Inspections<br>(2) | Written Notices<br>(3) | Occupiers prosecuted<br>(4) |
| Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...  | 4                  |                        |                             |
| Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)     | 176                |                        |                             |
| Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises) |                    |                        |                             |
| Total ... ..                                 | 180                |                        |                             |

## 2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

| Particulars<br>(1)                                                                                                                                                                          | Number of Defects |                                         | Number of<br>offences in<br>respect to<br>which<br>Prosecutions<br>were instituted<br>(5) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                             | Found<br>(2)      | Referred<br>to H.M.<br>Inspector<br>(4) |                                                                                           |
| <i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>                                                                                                                                            |                   |                                         |                                                                                           |
| Want of cleanliness ... ..                                                                                                                                                                  | 7                 | 12                                      |                                                                                           |
| Want of ventilation ... ..                                                                                                                                                                  |                   |                                         |                                                                                           |
| Overcrowding ... ..                                                                                                                                                                         |                   |                                         |                                                                                           |
| Want of drainage of floors ... ..                                                                                                                                                           |                   |                                         |                                                                                           |
| Other nuisances ... ..                                                                                                                                                                      | 3                 | 6                                       |                                                                                           |
| Sanitary accommodation<br>{ insufficient<br>unsuitable or defective<br>not separate for sexes                                                                                               | 1                 | 1<br>1                                  |                                                                                           |
| <i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>                                                                                                                                      |                   |                                         |                                                                                           |
| Illegal occupation of underground bakchouse (s. 101) ...                                                                                                                                    |                   |                                         |                                                                                           |
| Other offences ... ..                                                                                                                                                                       |                   |                                         |                                                                                           |
| (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the<br>Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health<br>(Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921). |                   |                                         |                                                                                           |
| Total ... ..                                                                                                                                                                                | 11                | 20+                                     |                                                                                           |

\* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the

## LODGING HOUSES

There is one registered Common Lodging House in the District, which is systematically inspected, and found to be kept clean.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES—FRIED FISH SHOPS

There are 14 in the District, 2 new ones having been opened during 1928. Inspections are made periodically, and in only one instance was there any difficulty in securing a satisfactory state of cleanliness.

## COW SHEDS

The number of registered Cowkeepers in the City area is 8. The systematic siting of the premises has the effect of securing a satisfactory condition of cleanliness. There was only one exception to this. Two Cowkeepers entered the County Clean Milk Competition, one securing a silver cup and diploma, and the other diploma.

The Veterinary Surgeon, Mr. Ebbetts, makes a quarterly inspection of all Milch cows. One cow was reported under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, and was destroyed.

## MILK SHOPS AND DAIRIES

There are 19 on the Register. Generally speaking, they are well conducted, and satisfactory.

There are also 19 purveyors of Sterilised Milk, which is sold in sealed bottles only.

Four retailers, whose premises are outside the area, are registered as retailers of milk within the Area.

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES

There are five in the City. Three are registered and two are licensed.

Details of inspections and action in regard to unsound meat will be found in the statement of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

## SCHOOLS

The general Sanitary Condition of the Schools is satisfactory. The water supply in all is adequate. The remaining Trough Closets will be replaced by the Pedestal type at an early date.

The methods used for dealing with Infectious Disease at Schools and for the health of the Scholars are set out in the Annual Report of the School Medical Officer.

## RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919

Total number of rats destroyed 4922. The numbers in 1926 and 1927 were 5721 and 5750. The average for five years is 5552. The number of baits laid was 3465.

## RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 AND 1928

No action has been taken in this matter during the year.

## HEALTH EDUCATION

Lectures were given and films dealing with Tuberculosis were shown during the year.

The Journal "Better Health," containing an article by the Medical Officer of Health, is regularly distributed. 2000 copies are issued each month.

Health education on systematic and authoritative lines is much needed. To get the full benefit from the activities of a Public Health Department, the co-operation of every individual is necessary. With knowledge of the elementary principles which govern a healthy life, and their practice, he benefits not only himself, but the whole community.

## HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1928

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

|                                                          |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----|
| a. Total (including numbers given separately under (b) ) | 85 |
| b. With State assistance under the Housing Acts          |    |
| (i). By the Local Authority                              | 64 |
| (ii). By other bodies or persons                         | 13 |

# INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

## 1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES

|     |                                                                                                                                                             |     |     |     |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)                                                         | ... | ... | 278 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925                                                | ... | ... | 62  |
| (3) | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation                                    | ... | ... | 12  |
| (4) | Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | ... | ... | 40  |

## 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

|  |                                                                                                                             |     |     |    |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|
|  | Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local Authority or their officers | ... | ... | 19 |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|

## 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

|    |                                                                                                                                           |     |     |   |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|---|
| A. | Proceedings under Sec. 3 of the Housing Act, 1925                                                                                         |     |     |   |
| 1. | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs                                                       | ... | ... | 1 |
| 2. | Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—                                                      |     |     |   |
|    | a. By Owners                                                                                                                              | ... | ... |   |
|    | b. By Local Authority in default of Owners                                                                                                | ... | ... |   |
| 3. | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by Owners of intention to close | ... | ... |   |
| B. | Proceedings under Public Health Acts                                                                                                      |     |     |   |
| 1. | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied                                        | ... | ... |   |
| 2. | Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—                                               |     |     |   |
|    | a. By Owners                                                                                                                              | ... | ... |   |
|    | b. By Local Authority in default of Owners                                                                                                | ... | ... |   |
| C. | Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925                                                                         |     |     |   |
| 1. | Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders                                                                | ... | ... | 1 |
| 2. | No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made                                                                       | ... | ... | 1 |
| 3. | No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit                   | ... | ... |   |
| 4. | No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made                                                                    | ... | ... |   |
| 5. | No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders                                                                       | ... | ... |   |

## E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### A. MILK SUPPLY

1. The effect of the regular and systematic inspection of places where Milk produced and sold, has been to materially improve the standard of cleanliness in regard to the milk supply of the District.

The sediment tests are being continued. By this method it is possible to demonstrate to the Cowkeeper the condition of his milk as regards visible dirt, and point out the reasons for failure to produce clean milk. There is no more convincing argument than ocular demonstrations.

The following figures are given by the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

|                     | Supplies as received from<br>Farmers and Wholesalers | Retailers<br>Supplies | Totals |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Comparatively Clean | 21                                                   | 26                    | 47     |
| Dirty               | 1                                                    | 0                     | 1      |
| Very Dirty          | 0                                                    | 0                     | 0      |
|                     | —                                                    | —                     | —      |
|                     | 22                                                   | 26                    | 48     |

The results are obtained by the use of the Tustin Sediment Tester, and shew improvement on the results of 1927.

2. No case of Tuberculous Milk was discovered.

3. MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1923

Two licences are in force, one for the sale of "Certified Milk," and one for Pasteurised Milk."

No licences have been refused or revoked.

The grading of Milk has a definite educational value, and it shews that with very little effort, it is possible to produce Milk of a high degree of purity.

The various grades tend to increase the cost, with the unfortunate result that poorer classes who are most in need of pure and clean Milk are unable to afford it.

Although there is sustained effort on the part of Local Authorities to secure a pure Milk supply, and a great improvement has taken place, there is still some unsatisfactory Milk sold.

The distribution of Milk in sealed bottles has greatly increased, and the practice of ladling Milk out of cans in the street is much less evident.

4. BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

Fourteen tests of Certified Milk were made, and all were satisfactory.

Three tests of Pasteurised Milk were made, and two failed to meet the requirements of the order. The firm concerned at once ceased to sell Pasteurised Milk as such, and have since equipped their dairy with new and efficient Pasteurising plant of the Holder type.

#### B. MEAT

The provisions of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, are being observed by the local butchers, assisted by the vigilant supervision of the Health Department.

More attention is given to the cleanliness and general hygienic condition of premises and instruments.

There is a marked improvement in the condition of slaughter houses, and the system of notifying the hours of killing has been of great service in facilitating inspection.

Details of unsound food, seized or surrendered, are given in the Statement of the Chief Sanitary Inspector on page 14.

#### C. FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1875 TO 1927

The following samples were analysed under the above Acts:—

| Article   | Number | Genuine | Adulterated |
|-----------|--------|---------|-------------|
| Milk      | 43     | 39      | 4           |
| Cream     | 2      | 2       |             |
| Butter    | 3      | 3       |             |
| Margarine | 3      | 3       |             |
| Vinegar   | 1      | 1       |             |
| Whiskey   | 7      | 3       | 4           |
|           | —      | —       | —           |
|           | 59     | 51      | 8           |

Percentage of adulteration—13.5. The average of the preceding ten years is 11.2.

Out of the 43 samples of milk analysed, the percentage of adulteration was 9.3.

The average of the preceding five years is 12.5.

All the adulterated samples came from one retailer. In addition to being prosecuted, he was warned by the Health Committee that in the event of further offences his name would be removed from the register.

The total number of prosecutions was 6, and fines, including costs, were imposed as follows:—2 Whiskey cases, £5 and £2. Milk prosecutions, 10/- in each of four cases.

In addition to the above, six samples of Milk were reported by the Analyst being deficient in fat. In one case the deficiency was so small as to raise the do as to any fat abstraction having occurred.

Another sample was supplied by a householder, and there were no means proving that the Milk was as delivered.

In a third case the retailer declared that the Milk was as received by him, and test sample on delivery confirmed this. In this case the deficiency was less than per cent., and an improvement was secured.

The other three cases of fat deficiency occurred under like circumstances to the aforesaid, but as the deficiency was greater, further steps were taken. In conjunction with the County Officials, the farm was visited, the milking of the cows was supervised and samples were taken at the sheds. It was proved that the whole bulk of the Milk was deficient in fat. Individual tests were next made, and ultimately the source of the trouble was traced to two Friesian cows, which were yielding an abundant supply of Milk of poor quality, that of one being 50 per cent. deficient as compared with the minimum standard. The Milk from these cows was fed to calves, and the whole bulk of the Milk was improved by replacing the Friesians with Guernsey cows.

Additionally to the above sampling, the Food and Drugs Inspector submitted 66 samples to the Gerber Test for fat contents. Some of these were examined at the request of retailers, who were doubtful of the quality of the Milk. These included samples from Friesian cows, and as in the before mentioned cases there was a serious deficiency of fat. The cowkeeper was referred to the County Agricultural Organiser for advice, and an improvement was secured and maintained.

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES IN FOOD) REGULATIONS 1927**

Prior to the issue of these Regulations, the use of preservatives in various foods had become so general and so unrestricted in character that many articles in an early stage of putrefaction were treated with some form of preservative which retarded the process, and which allowed unscrupulous traders to put on the market foods which were unfit for human consumption.

Many objections to the Regulations have been put forward, and for the most part have proved to be groundless. Their inevitable effect must be to lead to greater care in the production and preparation of perishable foods.

Strict cleanliness and purity are essential from start to finish.

The following samples of food were purchased for tests under these Regulations:

|                   |     |   |             |     |    |
|-------------------|-----|---|-------------|-----|----|
| Beef Sausages     | ... | 8 | Saveloys    | ... | 1  |
| Beef Sausage Meat |     | 1 | Ginger Beer | ... | 3  |
|                   |     |   |             |     | 13 |

Two samples of beef sausages contained Sulphur Dioxide in permissible quantities and a declaration of the use of preservatives was made by notice exhibited at the time of sale.

One sample of Ginger Beer contained Benzoic Acid in permissible quantity.

#### **F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES**

Infectious diseases are divided into two categories, those which are notifiable and those which are not. The latter class includes two diseases which are very serious and fatal amongst young children, viz, Measles and Whooping Cough.

Infectious diseases are to-day better understood, better controlled and better treated than in the past, but they still present many baffling problems. The growth of population, increased facilities for intercourse and travelling, and overcrowding on many aspects all form obstacles to the success of preventive measures.

The following Table shews the number of cases notified, removed to Hospital, and deaths during 1928:—

| Notifiable Disease.    | Number of Cases Notified<br>At Ages—Years |               |        |        |        |         |          |          |          |          |          |       | Cases Notified in<br>each Locality of<br>the District |             | Total<br>Number<br>of Cases<br>removed<br>to<br>Hospital | Total<br>Deaths |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
|                        | At all ages.                              | Under 1 Year. |        |        |        |         |          |          |          |          |          | South | North                                                 |             |                                                          |                 |
|                        |                                           | 1 to 2        | 2 to 3 | 3 to 4 | 4 to 5 | 5 to 10 | 10 to 15 | 15 to 20 | 20 to 35 | 35 to 45 | 45 to 65 |       |                                                       | 65 and over |                                                          |                 |
| Scarlet Fever.....     | 76                                        | 1             | 1      | 1      | 3      | 31      | 24       | 8        | 6        | 1        |          | 48    | 28                                                    | 63          |                                                          |                 |
| Diphtheria.....        | 137                                       | 3             | 1      | 5      | 7      | 54      | 34       | 19       | 11       | 1        |          | 107   | 30                                                    | 114         | 7                                                        |                 |
| Enteric Fever .....    | 1                                         |               |        |        |        |         | 1        |          |          |          |          | 1     |                                                       | 1           |                                                          |                 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia..... | 3                                         |               |        |        |        |         |          |          | 2        | 1        |          | 3     |                                                       |             | 1                                                        |                 |
| Pneumonia.....         | 7                                         |               |        |        |        |         | 1        |          |          | 2        | 4        | 4     | 3                                                     |             | 21                                                       |                 |
| Erysipelas .....       | 9                                         |               |        |        |        |         |          |          |          |          | 5        | 5     | 4                                                     |             |                                                          |                 |
| Totals.....            | 233                                       | 2             | 4      | 2      | 6      | 10      | 85       | 60       | 27       | 19       | 5        | 9     | 65                                                    | 178         | 29                                                       |                 |

This table includes two cases of Diphtheria and two cases of Scarlet Fever which were wrongly diagnosed.  
One case of Diphtheria and two cases of Scarlet Fever admitted from St. Bartholomew's Hospital were non-residents of the City.

## BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK

The following is a tabulated statement of Bacteriological work.

All specimens are forwarded to the County Laboratory at Maidstone.

|                             | Positive | Negative | Total |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|-------|
| Diphtheria Swabs            | 70       | 151      | 221   |
| Typhoid and Paratyphoid     |          |          |       |
| Widal Blood Tests           | 1        | 8        | 9     |
| Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli | 25       | 96       | 121   |
|                             | —        | —        | —     |
| Totals                      | 96       | 255      | 351   |

## SUPPLY AND USE OF ANTI-DIPHTHERITIC SERUM

No. of applications—46

No. of units issued—756,000

Cost—£43-6-7

In 1927 the cost was £9-7-5

## DISINFECTION

Disinfection of rooms and their contents is carried out by means of formaldehyde fumigation, after which free ventilation and cleansing are enjoined. There is a Steam Disinfector, but occasionally soft articles are sent to St. William's Hospital for steam disinfection.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES CONSIDERED SERIATIM

### SCARLET FEVER

Notifications—76

Removed to Hospital—63

Deaths—0

For some years Scarlet Fever has been very mild in character. Many cases show little or no signs of illness, and mortality is almost non-existent.

Formerly cases were detained for six weeks, now the average stay in hospital is four weeks.

### DIPHTHERIA

Notifications—137

Removed to Hospital—114

Deaths—7

Case Mortality—5.1 per cent.

During the previous year there were only 41 cases notified, and the increase was due to the widespread outbreak in the area, of which Chatham is the centre.

The swabbing of all cases of sore throat with a view of discovering carriers appears to have had little practical value.

In the declared case the most important thing is the prompt administration of Antitoxin in adequate doses. Unfortunately this is often delayed because of the neglect of parents in securing medical attendance at the onset of illness.

The best chance of controlling future outbreaks of Diphtheria is in the production of immunity. This process has been carried out in many parts of the country, and the reports available indicate its value and its safety.

### ENTERIC FEVER

Only one case occurred.

### PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Three cases were notified, and one died.

### PNEUMONIA (all forms)

Only 7 cases were notified but 21 deaths were registered.

## SMALL POX AND VACCINATION

No case of Small Pox occurred during 1928.

Owing to this occurrence of cases in the Home Counties, it was deemed advisable to make a daily inspection of the men applying for admission to the Port of Call Travellers hostel, and this was done for several months.

No vaccination or re-vaccination has been undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health.

As regards vaccination of infants the following particulars relating to the Medway district are available :—

|                       |     |     |                           |     |    |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|---------------------------|-----|----|
| Number of births      | ... | 994 | Declarations of objection | 380 |    |
| Vaccinated            | ... | 587 | Removed or not traced     | ... | 18 |
| Percentage Vaccinated |     | ... | 59                        |     |    |

Small Pox contacts from other areas have been kept under observation.

### NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Information with respect to the occurrence of non-notifiable diseases in the Schools supplied by Head Teachers on forms provided for the purpose.

Although incomplete, this enables the Health Department to estimate their degree of prevalence.

Measles and Whooping Cough are the most important in this group.

Very few cases have occurred, and there have been no deaths.

### OTHER DISEASES

#### INFLUENZA

The deaths directly attributed to this cause were five in number.

### VENEREAL DISEASES

The Venereal Diseases Clinic was continued at St. Bartholomew's Hospital until October, 1928.

It has now been transferred to 36 New Road, Rochester, premises which have been specially adapted for the purpose.

The work is now carried out by Dr. H. Nicol, a whole time specialist in the service of the Kent County Council.

As no separate record for patients belonging to Rochester appears to have been kept at the Hospital, the following figures relate to the whole area served by the Clinic :—

New Cases—352

Total Attendances—6737

The cure of these diseases entails a long period of continuous and regular treatment, and unfortunately many patients default in this respect before a complete cure is effected.

### CANCER

The following Table shews the number of deaths from Cancer, male and female, together with the rate of incidence per 1000 of the population for the last ten years :

| Year | Male | Female | Total | Rate of incidence per 1000 of the population |
|------|------|--------|-------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1928 | 19   | 25     | 44    | 1·3                                          |
| 1927 | 27   | 25     | 52    | 1·6                                          |
| 1926 | 24   | 29     | 53    | 1·6                                          |
| 1925 | 19   | 27     | 46    | 1·4                                          |
| 1924 | 20   | 25     | 45    | 1·3                                          |
| 1923 | 19   | 29     | 48    | 1·4                                          |
| 1922 | 22   | 23     | 45    | 1·4                                          |
| 1921 | 18   | 24     | 42    | 1·3                                          |
| 1920 | 14   | 21     | 35    | 1·04                                         |
| 1919 | 11   | 23     | 34    | 1·05                                         |
| 1918 | 8    | 23     | 31    | 1·09                                         |

For several years the mortality and incidence of Cancer have shewn an increase except in the year under consideration. Probably much of this is due to an alteration in the age distribution of the population on the one hand, and to improvement in diagnosis on the other.

TABLE V.  
The following Table shews the number of Deaths from Non-Notifiable Diseases year by year from 1921 to 1928 inclusive :—

| Disease                   | 1921          | 1922          | 1923          | 1924          | 1925          | 1926          | 1 97          | 1928          |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                           | No. of Deaths | No. of Deaths | No. of Deaths | No. of Deaths | No. of Deaths | No. of Deaths | No. of Deaths | No. of Deaths |
| Measles                   | 0             | 5             | 3             | 0             | 1             | 9             | 0             | 0             |
| Whooping Cough            | 4             | 2             | 3             | 0             | 5             | 3             | 2             | 0             |
| Diarrhoea (under 2 years) | 5             | 2             | 2             | 5             | 2             | 4             | 3             | 4             |
| Influenza                 | 11            | 9             | 6             | 7             | 11            | 5             | 20            | 5             |

# OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

|  | CASES    |         |             |   | Vision Un-im-<br>paired | Vision Im-<br>paired | Total<br>Blind-<br>ness | Deaths |
|--|----------|---------|-------------|---|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------|
|  | Notified | Treated |             |   |                         |                      |                         |        |
|  |          | At Home | In Hospital |   |                         |                      |                         |        |
|  | 0        | 0       | 0           | 0 | 0                       | 0                    | 0                       |        |

# PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

Section 66, Public Health Act 1925. No action has been taken.

## TUBERCULOSIS IN 1928

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1928

| Age Periods  | NEW CASES. |    |               |   | DEATHS.   |   |               |   |
|--------------|------------|----|---------------|---|-----------|---|---------------|---|
|              | Pulmonary  |    | Non-Pulmonary |   | Pulmonary |   | Non-Pulmonary |   |
|              | M          | F  | M             | F | M         | F | M             | F |
| 0            |            |    |               |   |           |   |               |   |
| 1            |            |    |               | 1 |           | 1 |               |   |
| 5            | 1          |    | 8             | 4 |           |   | 1             |   |
| 10           |            | 2  | 2             | 1 |           | 2 |               |   |
| 15           | 3          | 2  | 2             | 1 |           |   |               |   |
| 20           | 3          | 1  |               |   |           | 1 | 1             |   |
| 25           | 3          | 4  |               |   | 2         | 2 | 1             |   |
| 35           | 4          | 3  |               |   | 2         |   |               |   |
| 45           | 3          | 1  |               |   | 5         | 1 |               |   |
| 55           | 2          | 2  |               |   | 1         | 1 |               |   |
| 65 & upwards | 1          |    |               |   |           | 1 |               |   |
| Totals       | 20         | 15 | 12            | 7 | 10        | 9 | 3             | 0 |

The Notifications were divided as follows :

|                        | SOUTH | NORTH | Totals |
|------------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 25    | 10    | 35     |
| Non-Pulmonary do.      | 6     | 13    | 19     |
| Totals ...             | 31    | 23    | 54     |

Five deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis out of a total of 19 had not been previously notified by the Medical Practitioner in attendance.

The average numbers of notifications and deaths from Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis for the preceding five years are as follows :

|                        | Pulmonary Tuberculosis |        | Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis |        |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|
|                        | Notifications          | Deaths | Notifications              | Deaths |
| Average for five years | 37.2                   | 25.8   | 18.2                       | 5      |
| 1928 ...               | 35                     | 19     | 19                         | 3      |
|                        |                        | 25     |                            |        |

## TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY

This is under the control of the Kent County Council, and I am indebted Dr. Roper, the Tuberculosis Officer for the following particulars of cases attended from the Rochester Area :—

|                                           |     |     |     |
|-------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of New Cases ...                   | ... | ... | 114 |
| Total number of attendances (old and new) | ... | ... | 806 |
| Number sent to Institutions               | ... | ... | 24  |
| Number receiving Tuberculin               | ... | ... | nil |

| Diagnosis—New Cases    | Excluding School Children | School Child (Age 5 to 14) |
|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 25                        | 3                          |
| Surgical do.           | 3                         | 10                         |
| Bronchitis             | 3                         | 1                          |
| Other Diseases         | 0                         | 7                          |
| Apparently Healthy     | 34                        | 24                         |
| Observation            | 3                         | 1                          |
|                        | 68                        | 46                         |

Institutions to which patients were sent during 1928:—

Lenham Sanatorium 5, Keycol Hill 4, Grosvenor Sanatorium 5, R.S.B. Hospital Margate 1, Croydon Boro' San., Cheam 1, Cranbrook Convalescent 5, St. Barnabas Rochester 2, Oak Bank, Sevenoaks 1.—24

### PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS, 1925

No action was necessary.

### PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925. Section 62

No action required.

The fact that compulsory removal can be effected renders persuasion easier, and it is generally possible to secure the removal of dangerously infectious cases in this manner.

## G. MATERNITY AND CHILD-WELFARE

The number of births registered during 1928 was 485. Of these 18 were illegitimate. Males—241, Females—244.

### NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACTS 1907 AND 1915

467 Births were notified.

Of these there were received—

From Doctors—175, from Midwives—291, from Parent—1

There were 19 still births.

The number of infants visited by the Nurses was 454. The total number of visits paid during the year was 3762, or an average of 8.2 to each infant.

The primary visit is made after the tenth day in cases attended by midwives and after fourteen days in doctors cases.

The following Table gives particulars respecting the Infants visited :—

| METHODS OF FEEDING   | Total | Percentages |
|----------------------|-------|-------------|
| 1. Breast fed only   | 282   | 62.1        |
| 2. Breast and Bottle | 52    | 11.4        |
| 3. Bottle only       | 120   | 26.4        |

# KIND OF FOOD (when hand fed)

|                               | Total | Percentages |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------------|
| 1. Fresh Cows' Milk and Water | 11    | 2.4         |
| 2. Dried Milk                 | 108   | 23.7        |
| 3. Patent Foods               | 7     | 1.5         |
| 4. Condensed Milk             | 40    | 8.8         |
| 5. Biscuits, Oatmeal, etc.    | 6     | 1.3         |

# MODE OF FEEDING

|                       |     |      |
|-----------------------|-----|------|
| 1. Boat Shaped Bottle | 160 | 35.2 |
| 2. Long Tube Bottle   | 3   | .6   |
| 3. Spoon              | 9   | 1.9  |

The above figures indicate that Dried Milk has largely replaced other methods hand feeding.

All the Infants counted as breast fed in the above table were still being fed in the same way at or about the age of six months.

# CONDITION OF HOUSES VISITED

|                        | Total | Percentages |
|------------------------|-------|-------------|
| 1. Clean ... ..        | 366   | 80.6        |
| 2. Fairly Clean ... .. | 72    | 15.8        |
| 3. Dirty ... ..        | 11    | 2.4         |
| 4. Very Dirty ... ..   | 5     | 1.1         |

# OVERCROWDED HOUSES

More than 2 per bedroom—number of houses 218, 48 per cent.

There were 11 cases of twins.

Fifty-four cases not notified under the Act were visited, and are included in the preceding figures.

In two instances admission was refused.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY 1928

Total Deaths under 1 year—21. Rate per 1,000 Births—43.3

| CAUSES OF DEATH                       | Under 1 week. | 1-2 Weeks. | 2-3 Weeks. | 3-4 Weeks | Total under 4 Weeks. | 4 Weeks and under 3 Months. | 3 Months and under 6 Months. | 6 Months and under 9 Months | 9 Months and under 12 Months | Total Deaths under One Year |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Measles                               |               |            |            |           |                      |                             |                              |                             |                              |                             |
| Whooping Cough                        |               |            |            |           |                      |                             |                              |                             |                              |                             |
| Scarlet Fever                         |               |            |            |           |                      |                             |                              |                             |                              |                             |
| Diphtheria                            |               |            |            |           |                      |                             |                              |                             |                              |                             |
| Tuberculous Meningitis                |               |            |            |           |                      |                             |                              |                             |                              |                             |
| Abdominal Tuberculosis                |               |            |            |           |                      |                             |                              |                             |                              |                             |
| Other Tubercular Diseases             |               |            |            |           |                      |                             |                              |                             |                              |                             |
| Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> ) |               |            |            | 1         | 1                    |                             |                              |                             |                              | 1                           |
| Convulsions                           |               |            |            |           |                      |                             |                              |                             |                              |                             |
| Bronchitis                            |               |            |            | 1         | 1                    |                             |                              |                             |                              | 1                           |
| Pneumonia                             |               |            |            |           |                      | 1                           | 1                            | 1                           |                              | 3                           |
| Diarrhoeal Diseases                   |               |            |            |           |                      | 1                           | 2                            |                             |                              | 3                           |
| Syphilis                              |               |            |            |           |                      |                             |                              |                             |                              |                             |
| Rickets                               |               |            |            |           |                      |                             |                              |                             |                              |                             |
| Suffocation                           | 3             |            |            |           | 3                    |                             |                              |                             |                              | 3                           |
| Injury at Birth                       |               |            |            |           |                      |                             |                              |                             |                              |                             |
| Atelectasis                           | 1             |            |            |           | 1                    |                             |                              |                             |                              | 1                           |
| Congenital Malformations              | 1             |            |            |           | 1                    |                             |                              |                             | 1                            | 2                           |
| Premature Births                      | 3             |            |            | 2         | 5                    |                             |                              |                             |                              | 5                           |
| Atrophy, Debility                     |               |            |            |           |                      | 1                           |                              |                             |                              | 1                           |
| Marasmus                              |               |            |            |           |                      |                             |                              |                             |                              |                             |
| Other Causes                          |               |            |            |           |                      |                             |                              |                             | 1                            | 1                           |
| Totals                                | 8             |            |            | 4         | 12                   | 3                           | 3                            | 1                           | 2                            | 21                          |

### REPORT AS TO ST. WILLIAM'S HOSPITAL FOR THE YEAR 1928

699 patients were admitted during the year.

The following Table shews the total admissions from each District in the years 1926, 1927 and 1928 :—

| Years | Rochester | Chatham | Gillingham | Neighbouring Authorities | Total |
|-------|-----------|---------|------------|--------------------------|-------|
| 1926  | 103       | 279     | 175        | 0                        | 557   |
| 1927  | 78        | 295     | 139        | 11                       | 523   |
| 1928  | 155       | 263     | 246        | 35                       | 699   |

The average number of admissions for the ten years preceding 1926 was 256.8.

The following Table shews the total admissions in 1928 :—

|                                | Scarlet Fever | Diphtheria | Typhoid Fever | Totals    |
|--------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|-----------|
| Westminster                    | 63            | 91         | 1             | 155       |
| St. Mary's                     | 105           | 158        | 0             | 263       |
| St. George's                   | 103           | 142        | 1             | 246       |
| Surrounding }<br>Authorities } | 4             | 31         | 0             | 35        |
|                                | <hr/> 275     | <hr/> 422  | <hr/> 2       | <hr/> 699 |

The case mortality was as follows :—

|                   | In 1928       | In 1927       | In 1926       |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Scarlet Fever ... | .7 per cent.  | .9 per cent.  | 1 per cent.   |
| Diphtheria ...    | 8.2 per cent. | 5.9 per cent. | 7.7 per cent. |
| Typhoid Fever ... | No death      | No death      | No death      |

The Diphtheria figure is higher than usual, but that is largely accounted for by the fact that only the most severe cases were admitted to hospital, the milder cases being nursed in their own homes, generally to the satisfaction of their parents and without detriment to themselves or to those about them.

The operation of Tracheotomy for Laryngeal Diphtheria was performed 11 times with 11 recoveries. This is a most satisfactory result as each one of the children undergoing the operation was in imminent danger of death from suffocation and nothing but an immediate operation could save his life.

### WRONG DIAGNOSES

4.5 per cent. of all the cases sent in were wrongly diagnosed.

The figures for the last five years are as follows :—

1928 4.5 per cent., 1927 5.3 per cent., 1926 7.7 per cent., 1925 14.4 per cent., 1924 12.7 per cent.

This is satisfactory and shews a progressive improvement.

### ACCOMMODATION

The resources of the Hospital have been greatly strained for accommodation for Diphtheria Patients during the year. It has frequently been necessary to ration the Diphtheria Beds, but it has never been impossible to admit serious cases or cases requiring operation. As shewn earlier in this Report, the milder cases can very well be kept at home.

### THE STAFF

It has not been necessary to materially increase the Nursing Staff, but all have had to work very hard. If the present large number of admissions continues, it will be desirable, almost necessary, to engage a Night Superintendent of Nursing in order to relieve the Matron of night duties and calls which she should not be asked to answer.

### VERMINOSITY

The following are the figures for verminosity for all Districts and both sexes.

|               | SCARLET FEVER<br>(1927) |              | DIPHTHERIA<br>(1927) |                |
|---------------|-------------------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Verminous     | 7.8 per cent.           | 20 per cent. | 22.5 per cent.       | 40.4 per cent. |
| Non-verminous | 12.5 "                  | 14.1 "       | 11.6 "               | 18.3 "         |
| Mean          | 79.5 "                  | 65.8 "       | 65.7 "               | 41.1 "         |

This shews a considerable improvement over the figures for 1927, but still demonstrates a good deal of verminosity especially amongst the Diphtheria patients.

**TABLE VIII.**  
**CAUSES OF DEATH IN ROCHESTER IN 1928**

| Causes of Death.                |                                                           |     |     |     | Males. | Females |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|---------|
| ALL CAUSES.                     |                                                           |     |     |     | 181    | 184     |
| 1                               | Enteric fever                                             | ... | ... | ... |        |         |
| 2                               | Small-pox                                                 | ... | ... | ... |        |         |
| 3                               | Measles                                                   | ... | ... | ... |        |         |
| 4                               | Scarlet fever                                             | ... | ... | ... |        |         |
| 5                               | Whooping cough                                            | ... | ... | ... |        |         |
| 6                               | Diphtheria                                                | ... | ... | ... | 3      | 4       |
| 7                               | Influenza                                                 | ... | ... | ... | 4      | 1       |
| 8                               | Encephalitis lethargica                                   | ... | ... | ... |        |         |
| 9                               | Meningococcal meningitis                                  | ... | ... | ... |        |         |
| 10                              | Tuberculosis of respiratory system                        | ... | ... | ... | 10     | 9       |
| 11                              | Other tuberculous diseases                                | ... | ... | ... | 3      |         |
| 12                              | Cancer, malignant disease                                 | ... | ... | ... | 19     | 25      |
| 13                              | Rheumatic fever                                           | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 3       |
| 14                              | Diabetes                                                  | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 2       |
| 15                              | Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.                                  | ... | ... | ... | 3      | 8       |
| 16                              | Heart disease                                             | ... | ... | ... | 36     | 48      |
| 17                              | Arterio-sclerosis                                         | ... | ... | ... | 16     | 15      |
| 18                              | Bronchitis                                                | ... | ... | ... | 10     | 12      |
| 19                              | Pneumonia (all forms)                                     | ... | ... | ... | 9      | 12      |
| 20                              | Other respiratory diseases                                | ... | ... | ... | 3      |         |
| 21                              | Ulcer of stomach or duodenum                              | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 1       |
| 22                              | Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)                             | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 3       |
| 23                              | Appendicitis and typhlitis                                | ... | ... | ... |        |         |
| 24                              | Cirrhosis of liver                                        | ... | ... | ... |        |         |
| 25                              | Acute and chronic nephritis...                            | ... | ... | ... | 10     | 7       |
| 26                              | Puerperal sepsis                                          | ... | ... | ... |        | 1       |
| 27                              | Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition | ... | ... | ... |        | 1       |
| 28                              | Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth     | ... | ... | ... | 7      | 2       |
| 29                              | Suicide                                                   | ... | ... | ... | 3      |         |
| 30                              | Other deaths from violence...                             | ... | ... | ... | 5      | 3       |
| 31                              | Other defined diseases                                    | ... | ... | ... | 36     | 27      |
| 32                              | Causes ill-defined or unknown                             | ... | ... | ... |        |         |
| Special Causes (included above) |                                                           |     |     |     |        |         |
|                                 | Poliomyelitis                                             | ... | ... | ... |        |         |
|                                 | Polioencephalitis                                         | ... | ... | ... |        |         |
| Deaths of Infants { Total       |                                                           |     |     |     | 14     | 7       |
| under 1 year { Illegitimate     |                                                           |     |     |     | 2      | 1       |
| TOTAL BIRTHS                    |                                                           |     |     |     | 241    | 244     |
| Legitimate                      |                                                           |     |     |     | 231    | 236     |
| Illegitimate                    |                                                           |     |     |     | 10     | 8       |
| POPULATION } For Birth Rate     |                                                           |     |     |     | 31,760 |         |
| } For Death Rate                |                                                           |     |     |     | 31,280 |         |

This Table is supplied by the Registrar General

# Report as to Port Sanitary Authority

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
SAYE HOUSE, ROCHESTER.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PORT SANITARY  
COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you a Report as to the  
Sanitary Work performed during the year 1928.

TABLE A.

Amount of shipping entering the Port Sanitary District during the  
year 1928.

|                           |          |     |        | No. Inspected                    |                           | Number reported to be defective | Number of vessels on which defects were remedied |
|---------------------------|----------|-----|--------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|                           |          |     |        | By the Medical Officer of Health | By the Sanitary Inspector |                                 |                                                  |
| Foreign                   | Steamers | 267 | 125592 | 38                               | 259                       | 102                             | 101                                              |
|                           | Motor    | 49  | 9228   | 15                               | 48                        | 8                               | 8                                                |
|                           | Sailing  | 25  | 3942   | 4                                | 25                        | 2                               | 2                                                |
|                           | Fishing  | 0   | 0      | 0                                | 0                         | 0                               | 0                                                |
| Total Foreign             |          | 341 | 138762 | 57                               | 332                       | 112                             | 111                                              |
| Coastwise                 | Steamers | 412 | 222742 | 28                               | 406                       | 146                             | 146                                              |
|                           | Motor    | 69  |        | 10                               | 63                        | 4                               | 4                                                |
|                           | Sailing  | 115 |        | 12                               | 115                       | 22                              | 22                                               |
|                           | Fishing  | 18  |        | 4                                | 18                        | 6                               | 6                                                |
| Total Coastwise           |          | 614 | 222742 | 54                               | 602                       | 178                             | 178                                              |
| Total Foreign & Coastwise |          | 955 | 361504 | 111                              | 934                       | 289                             | 289                                              |

All Notices were informal

## Character of Trade of Port

TABLE B.

a. Passenger Traffic during 1928 :—

| Number of Passengers | 1st Class | 2nd Class | 3rd Class | Transmigrants |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Inwards              | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0             |
| Outwards             | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0             |

b. Cargo traffic :—

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS. Bricks, Timber, Coal, China Clay, Flour, Fruit, Stone,  
Corn, various Seeds and Kernels for making Cattle Cake and extracting Oil, and  
Food Pulp.

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS. Cement, Cattle Cake and Oil.

COUNTRIES WITH WHICH THE PORT PRINCIPALLY TRADES. Import Trade is carried  
on with Scandinavian, French, Dutch, Belgian, German and Baltic Ports in Europe,  
and with Chinese and West African Ports.

Export Trade. Cement is shipped to practically all parts of the world, either  
direct or first taken to London for trans-shipment.

The Principal British Ports with which trade is carried on, are the Tyne, Humber, Tees and Sunderland, most of the Scottish Ports, Liverpool, Dublin, Cardiff, Swansea, Barry and London.

### NUMBER AND NATIONALITY OF VESSELS

British 1989, Dutch 66, Norwegian 34, Belgian 33, Swedish 20, German 10, Danish 10, Latvian 8, Irish 4, American 1, Estonian 1.

### III.

#### Source of Water Supply

a. For the Port there are two sources of supply. The South Side of the River is supplied by the Chatham and District Water Company and the North Side by the Strood Water Works, the property of the Corporation of Rochester.

Both these waters are subjected to regular periodical Chemical and Bacteriological Analysis, with unvarying good results.

b. The shipping is supplied from the same sources.

c. One Water Boat is used for supplying the shipping, and this boat has been inspected twelve times during the year, and its tanks cleansed and limewashed six times.

# Infectious Disease

IV.

The arrangements for dealing with Infectious Disease were fully described in the Report for 1927 and have undergone no alteration.

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from vessels.

| Disease | No. of Cases during 1928 | Average No. of Cases for last 5 years  |
|---------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Malaria | None                     | 3 cases in 1925<br>None in other years |

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

| Disease | No. of Cases during 1928 | Average No. of Cases for last 5 years |
|---------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Malaria | None                     | 1 case in 1925<br>None in other years |

No case of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Small Pox or Typhus occurred during the year.

## V.

### Measures Against Rodents

#### 1. Steps taken for the detection of rodent plague :—

a. The Master of a Vessel is always asked on arrival as to the presence and mortality of rats and is given a hand-bill with regard to the destruction of rats copy of which appears in the Appendix.

b. The Corporation Rat Catcher keeps a look-out for dead rats in premises in the vicinity of docks and quays.

#### 2. Measures taken to prevent the passage of rats between ships and the shore.

No measures are taken.

#### 3. Methods of deratisation of :—

a. Ships. Sulphur Dioxide and the services of the Rat Catcher are employed.

b. Premises in the vicinity of docks or quays. The Corporation Rat Catcher is employed here and during the year has caught or killed 1,103 on these premises.

4. Measures taken for the detection of rat prevalence in ships and on shore. In ships, in addition to the questioning of Masters and Stewards, the Inspector examines places on board where rats are likely to be found. On shore the Rat Catcher is the look-out.

#### 5. Rat-proofing.

a. To what extent are docks, wharves, warehouses, etc., rat-proof ? To very little extent, if any.

b. Action taken to extend rat-proofing :—

In Ships—No action.

On Shore—No action.

### RATS DESTROYED DURING 1928

#### TABLE E.

##### 1. On Vessels.

Fourteen Brown Rats were killed by traps and varnish boards. There was suspicion of Plague and the bodies were not specially examined.

#### TABLE F.

##### 2. In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.

During the year 1103 were destroyed on these premises. All were brown rats and none were subjected to special examination.

#### TABLE G.

Particulars relating to Plague "infected" or "suspected" Vessels arriving at the Port during 1928. There were no arrivals.

#### TABLE H.

Vessels (other than those included in Table G.) subjected to measures of destruction during 1928. No rats were killed on any vessel.

## VI.

### Hygiene of Crews Space

#### TABLE I.

Classification of Nuisances :—

| Nationality of Vessel | No. Inspected during 1928 | Defects of Original Construction | Structural Defects through Wear and Tear | Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to Health |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| British               | 1654                      | 10                               | 111                                      | 234                                                     |
| Other Nations         | 191                       | 2                                | 16                                       | 112                                                     |

893 Barges are included in the above.

## Food Inspection

1 Cargoes of Flour, Oats, Potatoes, Maize, Sugar and Sprats to the number of were examined.

It was not found necessary to submit any article of food for either Bacteriological Chemical Examination.

2 Shell Fish. There are shell fish layings in the lower reaches of the River, the fish gathered from these layings are usually found to be clean. A quantity of crude sewage enters the River from various sources and it is therefore always dangerous to pick up and eat shell fish from unauthorised places, and many cases of Cholera have, in the past, been attributed to this practice. These risks will be considerably abated when the system of Main Drainage for Rochester and Chatham is in full operation, but will obviously never be entirely abolished so long as there is so considerable a River traffic to the Dockyard and to the Port of Rochester.

## II. Other Information

### REPORT AS TO EXECUTION OF CANAL BOATS ACTS FOR THE YEAR 1928

Name and Address of Inspector—HENRY EVANS, 61 Weston Road, Strood, Rochester.  
Remuneration ... £4 per annum.

No boats were detained during the year.

|                                                      |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of new boats registered                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0   |
| „ boats re-registered owing to structural alteration | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0   |
| „ „ „ for other reasons                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0   |
| „ boats on Register on December 31st, 1927           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 100 |
| „ „ inspected                                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 162 |
| „ „ with one or more infringements                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 69  |
| „ infringements remedied                             | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9   |
| „ „ women on boats inspected                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0   |
| „ „ children under 5 years                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0   |
| „ „ boats on Register                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 40  |

### CLASSIFIED LIST OF INFRINGEMENTS

|                                 |     |     |     |     |   |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Boats without Certificates      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Boats not properly marked       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Cabins not in cleanly condition | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Ineffective bulkheads           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Leaky decks causing wet berths  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

Owing to the fact that sixty boats were in such a condition as to render them unfit for use as Canal Boats they have been struck off the Register and are now used as ordinary lighters.

No case of Infectious Disease was met with, nor was it necessary to take legal steps in respect of any infringement.

### GENERAL SANITARY WORK OF THE PORT

The Staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health, one Senior Sanitary Inspector and one Junior Sanitary Inspector, the latter being fully qualified.

A Motor Launch is provided.

The Port has no special provision for cleansing and disinfecting verminous persons, but in case of need the Disinfecting Station at the Medway Infirmary would be at the disposal of the Port Authorities.

There is no arrangement for the receipt of wireless messages relating to the health of the crews of incoming vessels, nor does such an arrangement seem necessary at present.

### 3. CASES OF SICKNESS

Thirty-one cases of illness were treated by a private doctor. All these cases were non-infectious. No infectious case arose. There was one death—by accident.

### 4. GENERAL

Otterham Quay, Halstow and Whitewall were visited from time to time and off no matter for comment.

Riverside Factories and Wharves have been periodically visited and the Port Regulations duly posted.

Twenty-two dead dogs found on the foreshore or afloat were disinfected and buried.

### 5. COMPLETE LIST OF VESSELS INSPECTED IN 1928

|             |     |     |     |       |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Ships ...   | ... | ... | ... | 952   |
| Barges      | ... | ... | ... | 893   |
| Canal Boats | ... | ... | ... | 162   |
| Lighters    | ..  | ... | ... | 172   |
| Water Boat  | ... | ... | ... | 1     |
|             |     |     |     | <hr/> |
|             |     |     |     | 2180  |
|             |     |     |     | <hr/> |

The following are the figures for the preceding ten years :—

|      |     |      |      |     |      |
|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|
| 1927 | ... | 2194 | 1922 | ... | 2018 |
| 1926 | ... | 2075 | 1921 | ... | 1867 |
| 1925 | ... | 1753 | 1920 | ... | 2011 |
| 1924 | ... | 1830 | 1919 | ... | 1973 |
| 1923 | ... | 1931 | 1918 | ... | 1952 |

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. PRITCHETT,

Port Medical Officer of Health

## **APPENDIX I.**

### **PORT OF ROCHESTER**

#### **NOTICE**

To Ship-masters, Stevedores, Dock-masters and all other persons concerned with Shipping in the Port of Rochester.

#### **DESTRUCTION OF RATS**

Under the provisions of the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, all occupiers of land and buildings and ALL MASTERS OF SHIPS OR VESSELS are required to take all necessary and reasonable steps to destroy rats and mice on their land, buildings or SHIPS.

It is of the HIGHEST IMPORTANCE that the presence of DEAD RATS or of rats dying from unknown causes in SHIPS OR RIVERSIDE BUILDINGS should be immediately notified to the PORT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH or to the PORT SANITARY INSPECTOR.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

So far as regards VESSELS or RIVERSIDE BUILDINGS can be obtained from the PORT SANITARY INSPECTOR, SAYE HOUSE, ROCHESTER, who will be ready to advise and assist in the matter of Rat Destruction.

Signed,

S. PRITCHETT,

Port Medical Officer of Health.

Saye House, Rochester.  
August, 1927.

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## **APPENDIX II.**

### **PORT OF ROCHESTER**

Health Department,

Saye House, Rochester.

#### **NOTICE**

To Master Mariners, and others whom it may concern.

The Master (or other person in charge) of any Vessel, arriving at the Port of Rochester, with Infectious or Contagious Disease on board must give immediate notice to the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH and remove the Patient to Hospital under his instructions.

The Infectious Diseases alluded to are Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Small Pox, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Typhoid or Enteric Fever and Typhus Fever. Notice must also be given if there is on board any Clothing or other Articles infected with any of the above-mentioned Diseases. The penalty for not reporting is £5.

By Order,

S. PRITCHETT,

Port Medical Officer of Health.

